

Message Text

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SUBJ: STRAUSS CRITICALLY POSITIVE ON CHILE

1. SUMMARY: GERMAN CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION PARTY CHAIRMAN, FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, COMPLETED HIS CONTROVERSIAL FIVE-DAY VISIT TO CHILE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22. CONSTANTLY QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS, STRAUSS CAREFULLY STATED THAT HE CAME TO CHILE TO VIEW THE SITUATION PERSONALLY. ACCORDING TO STRAUSS, ALL COUNTRIES HAVE PROBLEMS AND CHILE IS NO EXCEPTION. IT IS NOT A PARADISE BUT WORLDWIDE OPINION HAS DISTORTED THE TRUE SITUATION. FROM THE GOC POINT OF VIEW THE VISIT WAS A STRONG PLUS, WITH MEDIA FOCUS ON STRAUSS' FAVORABLE COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION INVITED STRAUSS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST GERMAN COLONISTS TO CHILE. BESIDES PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES, STRAUSS VISITED WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, EX-PRESIDENT FREI, CARDINAL SILVA, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SUPREME COURT AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CARVAJAL. STRAUSS' DELEGATION INCLUDED BUSINESSMEN, OFFICIALS OF THE HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION, AND THE GERMAN MINISTER OF WORK AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIAL AFFAIRS, FRITZ PIRKL. THE VISIT RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE BY THE CHILEAN NEWS MEDIA AND WAS THE LATEST IN A NUMBER OF RECENT GERMAN CONTACTS WITH CHILE -- E.G., LARGE TOURIST GROUPS AND A VERY POPULAR BAUHAUS ART EXHIBIT.

3. THOUGHTS ON POLITICS. STRAUSS CONTINUALLY EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE THAT THE COUNTRY RETURN TO A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. HE STRESSED,

HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM COULD NOT BE A CONTINUATION OF WHAT CHILE HAD IN 1970, AND THAT EACH COUNTRY MUST FORM ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM BASED ON ITS OWN HERITAGE. STRAUSS SAID THAT WE HAVE INSULTED OURSELVES FROM THE FACT THAT POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING HIS FRIENDS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PUT A MARXIST GOVERNMENT IN POWER AND THE SITUATION EVENTUALLY REACHED THE VERGE OF CIVIL WAR. POLITICAL PARTIES ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY BUT THEY MUST DELIVER A SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE. THE GOAL OF THE PARTIES SHOULD BE PROSPERITY AND TRANQUILITY. STRAUSS LAMENTED THE ABSENCE OF A POWERFUL YOUTH MOVEMENT IN CHILE WHICH COULD WORK TOWARD A SOLID DEMOCRACY BASED ON MORAL GROUNDS.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION. SEVERAL TIME DURING HIS VISIT STRAUSS PRAISED THE MARKET-ORIENTED CHILEAN ECONOMIC MODEL. ACCORDING TO STRAUSS, THE FIRST PRECEPT OF LIBERTY IS ECONOMIC LIBERTY. THE CHILEAN ECONOMY IS ADVANCING WELL BUT THE GOC MUST CONTINUALLY

WEIGH THE SOCIAL COSTS. ALTHOUGH MARXISM PROMISES PARADISE, IT ONLY PAVES THE WAY TO HELL.

5. RESPONDING TO CRITICS. WHILE STRAUSS WAS IN CHILE THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED CRITICISMS OF HIS TRIP FROM POLITICAL OPPONENTS IN GERMANY. RESPONDING TO THEM(AND ALSO TO THOSE IN CHILE WHO FEEL LIKEWISE) STRAUSS POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN TO PEKING TWICE WITHOUT BECOMING AN ADHERENT OF CHINESE COMMUNISM AND TO MOSLEM

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COUNTRIES FOUR TIMES WITHOUT CHANGING HIS FAITH, AND THAT HE WOULD NOT BECOME A CHILEAN GENERAL AS A RESULT OF HIS CURRENT TRIP.

6. COMMENT: STRAUSS, AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURE IN GERMANY, OBVIOUSLY THRIVES ON CONTROVERSY. PUBLICLY STRAUSS GAVE AN OPINION ABOUT NEITHER PINOCHET NOR THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT. HE DID, HOWVER, CONTINUALLY EMPHASIZE HIS DESIRE FOR CHILE TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE.

7. THE GOC SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE STRAUSS VISIT. HE MIXED ENOUGH PRAISE AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GENERAL THEME OF RETURNING TO DEMOCRACY TO QUALIFY HIM AS AN OBJECTIVE CRITIC FROM THE GOC VIEWPOINT.

8. SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON FREI-STRAUSS CONTROVERSY.
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